



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1029

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H.P. 759

House of Representatives, February 28, 2019

**An Act To Expand Educational Opportunities for Students  
Attending Public Secondary Schools with Enrollments of 300 or  
Fewer Students**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and  
Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, STANLEY of Medway, VEROW  
of Brewer.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4730** is enacted to read:

3 **§4730. Academic opportunity programs**

4 **1. Secondary schools with more than 300 students.** A private or public secondary  
5 school with more than 300 students shall enter into an agreement with any secondary  
6 school with 300 or fewer students to establish an academic opportunity program at the  
7 smaller school that makes available to students of that school courses and academic  
8 programs at the larger school, including, but not limited to, advanced placement courses,  
9 international baccalaureate programs and early college programs.

10 **2. Secondary schools with 300 or fewer students.** A secondary school with 300 or  
11 fewer students shall establish an academic opportunity program in accordance with the  
12 agreements entered into pursuant to subsection 1 and inform its resident students of the  
13 program.

14 **3. School administrative units; policies and procedures; report.** The school  
15 administrative unit of a secondary school with 300 or fewer students shall develop  
16 policies and procedures for the school's academic opportunity program. The school  
17 administrative unit shall report annually to the department the number of students  
18 participating in the program and the number of courses and academic programs accessed  
19 through the program.

20 **4. Rates; rulemaking.** The department shall establish tuition rates for students  
21 participating in an academic opportunity program under this section and shall publish the  
22 rates on the department's publicly accessible website. The department shall adopt rules to  
23 implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical  
24 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **5. Transportation.** A secondary school with an academic opportunity program  
26 under this section and the school providing access to its courses are not responsible for  
27 providing transportation for a student in the academic opportunity program who requires  
28 transportation to a secondary school outside the student's resident school administrative  
29 unit in order to participate.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill requires private and public secondary schools with more than 300 students  
32 to enter into contracts with secondary schools with 300 or fewer students to establish  
33 academic opportunity programs that make available to resident students of the smaller  
34 schools the courses and academic programs of the larger schools, including, but not  
35 limited to, advanced placement courses, international baccalaureate programs and early  
36 college programs. The bill also requires the secondary schools with 300 or fewer students  
37 to inform their resident students of the academic opportunity program and provides that  
38 the schools participating in an academic opportunity program are not responsible for  
39 providing transportation to participating students.